## **CLAIMS**

## What is claimed is:

- 1. A peptide-amphiphile composition comprising:
- a first peptide-amphiphile or salt thereof with a hydrophilic region, said region having a first biological signal and an ionic charge associated therewith; and a second peptide-amphiphile or salt thereof with a hydrophilic region, said region having a second biological signal and an opposite signed ionic charge associated herewith.
- The peptide-amphiphile compositions of claim 1, wherein the first peptide and second peptide are in a charge equivalent ratio.
  - 3. The peptide-amphiphile composition of claim 1, wherein the first and second peptide-amphiphiles are oppositely charged.
- 4. The peptide-amphiphile composition of claim 1, wherein said first peptide or said second peptide includes an amino acid sequence which promotes adhesion of nerve cells with said first or second peptide-amphiphiles.
  - 5. The peptide-amphiphile composition of claim 1, wherein said first or second peptide-amphiphile includes the amino acid YIGSR.
- 6. The peptide-amphiphile composition of claim 1, wherein said first or said second peptide includes a peptide sequence that promotes axon outgrowth in cells.
  - 7. The composition of claim 1, wherein said first or second peptide-amphiphile includes the amino acid sequence IKVAV.

- 8. The composition of claim 1, wherein the first or second peptide-amphiphile includes an amino acid with a functional moiety capable of intermolecular covalent bond formation.
- A composition comprising self-assembled positively-charged peptide-amphiphiles
   incorporating a first biological signal and a negatively-charged peptide-amphiphiles incorporating a second biological signal.
  - 10. The compositions of claim 9 including peptide-amphiphiles with amino acids sequence promoting cell adhesion.
- The composition of claim 9, wherein said peptide-amphiphiles include amino acid sequences chosen from the group consisting of IKVAV and YIGSR.
  - 12. A composition comprising:

15

20

an aqueous solution of a first peptide-amphiphile composition which has a positive net charge at substantially physiological pH and which includes a first biological signal; and

- an aqueous solution of a second peptide-amphiphile composition which has a negative net charge at substantially physiological pH.
- 13. A method of treating a patient with tissue engineered material comprising:
  administering a peptide-amphiphile composition to a site in need thereof, said peptide-amphiphile composition capable of stimulating or inhibiting a plurality of biological signals at said site, said peptide-amphiphile compositions capable of forming a nanofiber network.
- 14. The method of claim 13, wherein said peptide-amphiphile composition is comprised of a first peptide-amphiphile with a first biological signal, having a charge, and a second peptide-amphiphile having an opposite charge.

- 15. The method of claim 14, wherein said second peptide-amphiphile includes a second biological signal.
- 16. A tissue defect filler comprised of a self-assembled peptide-amphiphile compound which itself includes at least two biologically relevant signals.

5